

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
2005 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This is a summary of accomplishments by the SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Commission from January 1 to December 31, 2005.

WRAC Priority Plan:

- Developed an updated priority work plan for Governing Board consideration. The Governing Board approved the work plan.

CERP/ACCELER8:

- Provided consensus comments to SFWMD Governing Board on CERP Guidance Memorandums and the CERP Master Implementation and Sequencing Plan. Comments were provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Initiated series of WRAC Issues Workshops and WRAC Updates on Initial Reservations of Water to protect fish and wildlife. Workshop series is ongoing.
- Initiated series of WRAC Issues Workshops on each Acceler8 project and project component. Workshop recommendations, as approved by WRAC have created visible results; e.g.:
 - C-43 Reservoir Test Cells
 - C-44 Reservoir Test Cells
 - Acme Basin B Design
 - Picayune Strand Restoration Design
- Provided comments to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force regarding C-111 Basin Project design as related to the Combined Structural and Operational Plan (CSOP)

Lake Okeechobee:

- Created 30-member WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee to recommend measures to help restore Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.
- Recommended that the Governing Board request the Corps of Engineers, on an expedited basis, modify the Lake Okeechobee water control plan to achieve a more refined balance between the competing needs of the lake and estuarine ecosystems, and the Everglades ecosystem, flood control, recreation and water supply.

- Recommended to the Governing Board that the SFWMD Lake Okeechobee “Fast Track” plan for north of the lake projects should move forward, including an evaluation of temporary and permanent forward pumps.
- In addition to the “Fast Track” plan, recommended new or improved program components for the recovery of Lake Okeechobee and the estuaries that became the Lake Okeechobee and Estuary Recovery Plan.
- Initiated effort to evaluate potential for increased water storage on public and private lands.

Water Supply Plans and Alternative Water Supply Projects:

- Initiated a series of issues workshops regarding Alternative Water Supply Projects consistent with the requirements of Florida Senate Bill 444, enacted by the 2005 Florida Legislature.
- Workshops helped provide information to local governments and utilities; results are that 57% of south Florida utilities have submitted alternative water supply projects to help meet water supply demands over the next 20 years.
- Issues workshops to update water supply plans and discuss alternative water supply projects are ongoing.

Northwest Fork Loxahatchee River Restoration Plan:

- Provided consensus comments to the Governing Board about restoration plan alternative.

Stormwater Management:

- Initiated a series of issues workshops to improve the retention and treatment of stormwater and the recharge of aquifers and wellfields.

Recreational Access and Public Use of SFWMD Lands:

- Recommended the Governing Board transmit to the State of Florida a proposed rule to guide recreation and public use on SFWMD lands.
- Increased recreation and public access to Stormwater Treatment Areas
- Provided consensus comments about design of public access facilities for Stormwater Treatment Areas and CERP projects.